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                THE COURT: And I will give you a chance to
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      address that. Let me ask you though, as it relates to
      Application Note 13(A)(i), do the facts support that
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      element?
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                MR. RHODES: When you say, "that element"?
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                THE COURT: 13(A)(i). Right. I'm not asking you
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      to concede 13(A)2(i).
                MR. RHODES: Oh, I'm sorry. I heard 13(A)(5)
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 9
      apologize, your Honor.
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                THE COURT: (A)(i).
                MR. RHODES: Your Honor, I do believe the facts
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      here would show. Well, I believe that if it is not shown
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      that this Adrian individual was not working under the guise
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      of a federal agency or a state agency, then I believe
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      that -- let me backtrack, your Honor.
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                Under (A)(i), I believe Mr. Loyola has transferred
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      two or more firearms. Yes.
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                THE COURT: Okay. So (A)(i) so we can set that
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      aside. So then the question and your objection -- well, of
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      course, it's multi-faceted -- but part of it is, is it
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      consistent with the actual 2K2 language? And if it's
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      inconsistent then it should not apply, and we should rely on
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      the language.
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                And then another part includes, regardless, does
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      the evidence support a conclusion that 13(A)(ii)(I) or (II),
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may not be supported by the facts, is that --

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MR. RHODES: I believe, yes, your Honor. I think that what my argument boils down to is the way that the addendum and — the way that probation and the government are interpreting the Application Note, I believe creates a needless conflict between the plain language of 2K2.1(b)(5), it creates a needless conflict with 2k2.1(b)(5).

Instead, they should be read in harmony to say there are two guns -- at least two guns that Mr. Loyola needed to know or have reason to believe would end up -- you know, with someone whose position would be unlawful, or with someone who Mr. Loyola knew or had reason to believe intended to use or dispose of the firearm unlawfully.

I believe that the way that the addendum interprets the Application Note currently, they are holding him accountable based solely on the fact that this machine gun may fit with (A)2(ii) or (ii), as your Honor said.

I think there has to be at least one other gun in order for this enhancement to apply. And that's based on the plain language of B(5) that says "firearms" plural.

It would make no sense to apply a trafficking enhancement to an individual where they only trafficked in one firearm, when the plain language of the guideline says "firearms," plural. And so, I think that's the first aspect of the objection.

1 THE COURT: And on that aspect what do you make of 2 the fact that under 13(A)ii), the Application Note 3 designates on the disposal aspect of this, a firearm, Article "A"? 4 5 MR. RHODES: Your Honor, I don't think that that changed the argument at all. I think that the "and" in the 6 7 first (i) means that, even though 2(i) references "a firearm, " you still have to show this test in 2(i) for 8 9 multiple guns, multiple firearms. 10 And I believe that the case law supports that. 11 The Fifth Circuit, as I mention in my addendum objection, 12 the Fifth Circuit has said that multiple firearms are 13 required to trigger this enhancement. 14 And so, I believe while in the Application Note 15 the language may be poor, the fact that it reads "a firearm" doesn't change the fact that multiple guns are required. 16 17 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you for that. Do you agree that under 2(i), 13(A)2(i), where it 18 19 says, "a firearm," that that refers to a single firearm? 20 MR. RHODES: Your Honor, that specific language --21 THE COURT: Yeah. 22 MR. RHODES: -- in (A)2(i) --23 THE COURT: I understand there's more context. 2.4 understand your contextual argument. I'm just trying to 25 drill down and then step back. So just drilling down to

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      this, and there's a canon or a caution against being
 2
      hypertextual, so I understand your argument.
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                I want to drill down to just that, those two
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      words, and then step back and look at the context to try to
 5
      understand better. So if we do that, if we drill down,
      where it says, after the "and" of (i), when we move to (ii),
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 7
      "and knew or had reason to believe that such conduct would
      result in the transport, transfer, or disposal of 'a
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 9
      firearm' to an individual."
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                When it says, "a firearm to an individual," the
11
      language is referring to a single firearm; is that right?
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                MR. RHODES: With how your Honor is explaining --
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                THE COURT: Yeah.
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                MR. RHODES: -- where we're going in this specific
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      instance, yes, I believe --
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                THE COURT: Right.
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                MR. RHODES: -- that that language refers to "a
      firearm" --
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                THE COURT: Because your argument --
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                MR. RHODES: -- because the Application Note says,
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      "a firearm."
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                THE COURT: Because your argument loops back to
      (A)(i), which says two or more. So "a firearm" in your
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      argument, as I understand it, you've got to account for two
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      or more to fit here?
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MR. RHODES: Right.

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THE COURT: Right. Right. So "a firearm" does refer to a single firearm in 2(i), but that's only half of it to answer your question, because you got to account for the two or more. And so, "a firearm" deals with firearm one, "a firearm" deals with firearm two, and "a firearm" deals with however many more.

MR. RHODES: And so on and so on. I think that that is the correct interpretation of the Application Note. And under that application of the Application Note 13, when you read it that way, it fits with the plain language of (B)(5), which is the goal of the Application Note, and that's the goal of statutory interpretation.

There's no need to create a conflict here where there isn't one. And interpreting it the way that the addendum does and the way that the government is doing creates that conflict and it's unnecessary.

And when an unnecessary conflict arises

language -- text should be read in such a way that they're

harmonious with each other. I believe that the way that

your Honor just interpreted Application Note 13 would render

them harmonious, because that would trigger multiple guns

being required to be proven under (A)2(i).

THE COURT: And so, let me ask, so now that I understand it and we've wrestled with at least

hypertextually the language here. So let's step back a moment now and let me ask you if this reading would be harmonious with 2K2.1(b)(5).

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And that is, the Application Note requires, for it to be applied, that a defendant had been engaged with two or more firearms, that is, multiple firearms. The defendant transported, transferred, or disposed of two or more firearms, and it meets that. So multiple firearms, plural.

And then, out of those multiple firearms, two or more, the defendant at least disposed of one of those firearms to an individual who it would be unlawful or knew they would act unlawfully with it, whatever (I) and (II) say, why would that not be harmonious?

That is, he's transporting, et cetera, disposing multiple firearms, plural, and then out of those multiple firearms, which we don't want him to do, he's getting rid of at least one illegally.

MR. RHODES: Well, so, your Honor, I think that your hypothetical matches my hypothetical that I put in my addendum -- my objections to the addendum, where if you have individual A, individual B, and individual C, and individual A is transferring firearms, and he gives five guns to individual B, and individual B can lawfully possess them, he's not going to do anything with them that would be illegal, and then he gives one firearm to individual C,

1 whose possession would be unlawful or he intended to do 2 something illegal with that, that would not trigger the firearms trafficking enhancement. 3 4 I believe that's the exact hypothetical that your Honor just presented. And so, and that wouldn't trigger 5 because he is distributing multiple firearms, yes, but all 6 7 of them are lawful, save one. And again, the plain language of the quideline requires there to be multiple firearms 8 9 being trafficked. 10 And so, he's only given one gun illegally. not enough. It doesn't get you there. To answer your 11 12 question, no, I do not think that the situation that you have presented would trigger the enhancement. 13 14 THE COURT: Let me ask you this on that 15 hypothetical. What if the person disposed of those firearms, A, B, and C, multiple firearms to A, multiple 16 17 firearms to B, multiple firearms to C, and B and C didn't dispose of them illegally, and they're not unlawful 18 19 recipients, but A disposed of multiple firearms to people 20 legally, and one firearm to someone illegally? 21 MR. RHODES: I don't think that would trigger the 22 trafficking enhancement. If we are talking one gun --23 THE COURT: But my question to you is, why would 2.4 this not be in harmony?

Because that's what we have here, arguably. We'll

get to the evidence in a minute. But arguably, we will get 2 to the evidence in just a minute. Just, hypothetically, if a defendant had two or 3 more firearms, gave them to a person and transported, 4 5 disposed of them to the person, and then that person disposed of one firearm illegally --6 7 Well, let me ask it this way. Would you agree that that fits the text of Application Note 13? 8 9 MR. RHODES: When you say, "fits the text," are 10 you saying does the situation, would we be looking at 11 Application Note 13 given that situation? 12 THE COURT: So a defendant gives multiple -- gives two firearms to a third party. That third party disposes of 13 14 one of those firearms to a convicted felon, that that person knows is a convicted felon, and keeps the other firearm. 15 16 Would Application Note 13, would it fit within the 17 terms of Application Note 13? MR. RHODES: No, not necessarily, because under 18 19 your hypothetical, we know nothing about -- we are kind of 2.0 talking about multiple levels here, but going back to the 21 original disperser of the firearms --22 THE COURT: Yeah. MR. RHODES: -- we know nothing about what they 23 2.4 knew, about who they were giving the gun to or who that 25 person was then going to give that gun to and that's what is

Case 4:22-cr-00356-O Document 48 Filed 06/01/23 Page 13 of 48 PageID 256 13 1 required under the Application Note. 2 THE COURT: Very good. Let's add to that 3 hypothetical that the person who gave the firearms to the third party knew that one of the firearms would be disposed 4 of by giving it to a felon. Would it fit the text here? 5 MR. RHODES: No. I don't think that it would, 6 7 because we're only talking about one gun. I think that you still have to have multiple firearms in order for this 8 9 trafficking enhancement to apply. 10 And so, I don't know if you're ready to turn to 11 the evidence in this case yet, but I think under a proper 12 reading of the Application Note, you just have to have more than what we have here. 13 14 THE COURT: Forget the evidence, but just on the 15 hypothetical though, let me ask it this way: If the facts scenario were that a defendant in a case sold two firearms 16 17 to a third party, and the defendant in that case knew that the third party was going to dispose of one firearm to a 18 19 convicted felon, it's clear, is it not, that the defendant 2.0 in that case transferred and disposed of two or more 21 firearms to another individual, right? 22 MR. RHODES: Yes. To that specific part of 23 your -- yes.

transported to that individual was transferred or disposed

THE COURT: Right. And that "a firearm" that he

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1 of unlawfully. 2 MR. RHODES: Yes, I think the facts -- yes. Yeah. 3 THE COURT: Yeah. MR. RHODES: But I don't think that triggers the 4 5 enhancement. THE COURT: And it doesn't trigger the 6 7 enhancement, because your argument is, that either contextually it's got to refer to both firearms in 13(A)(i), 8 9 or if it doesn't, then there's conflict between the 10 Application Note and the plain text of the guidelines such that the Application Note shouldn't be followed? 11 12 MR. RHODES: Exactly. That is my exact argument. 13 Yes, your Honor. 14 THE COURT: Okay. So let's set that aside for a minute then. And so, as I read the information in the 15 16 presentence report, the information in that report indicates 17 that this third party, in this instance, Adrian, worked for a Mexican drug cartel. 18 19 And so, as it relates to the machine gun kind of 2.0 firearm or the other firearms here, is it not a reasonable 21 inference for me to draw that it is clear when you transfer 22 firearms, regardless of the type, to someone who works for a 23 Mexican drug cartel, that their possession is either 2.4 unlawful, or that they intend to dispose of the firearm 25 unlawfully, that is, they intend to transfer those firearms

to the Mexican drug cartel?

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MR. RHODES: As it pertains to the machine gun, it's possible that that could be a reasonable inference in this case, because at the time Mr. Loyola was attempting to purchase the machine gun, he knew that Adrian was somehow connected with a cartel.

As it pertains to any other firearms that relate to Adrian, no, I do not think so, because we have no evidence in this case of when Mr. Loyola became aware that Adrian was involved with a narcotics cartel.

We know nothing about this Adrian individual. We don't know if he is a convicted felon. We don't know if he is -- we know nothing about him.

And putting that aside, we know nothing about what Mr. Loyola knew about Adrian at the time that he purchased these other firearms. Either, you know, for Adrian or with the intention of giving them to Adrian. We don't know what he knew.

And that is the other part of the Application Note that is required is Mr. Loyola must have known or had a reason to believe. The evidence here doesn't get you to that preponderance standard such that we can decide that Mr. Loyola knew or had reason to believe that Adrian could either not possess the firearms or was going to use them unlawfully.

1 I think specifically regarding the Barrett .50 2 caliber rifle, you know, that is a firearm that can be 3 purchased legally. That is not a gun that is typically used in drug transactions. A Barrett .50 caliber rifle has a 4 5 barrel that's, you know, huge. That's not something that you take to a drug deal. 6 7 And so, I don't think that you can assume that Mr. Loyola, regardless of what his knowledge was, had a 8 9 reasonable belief that Adrian would have used that in 10 furtherance of drug trafficking or anything. We don't know what Mr. Loyola knew about Adrian at 11 12 the time he bought the Barrett .50 caliber rifle. We have 13 no idea if Mr. Loyola had any inclination that that gun was 14 possibly bound for Mexico or going to be used illegally or 15 anything. 16 The simple fact of this case as it pertains to 17 this enhancement is we just don't know. There's not enough evidence here to trigger the enhancement because we don't 18 19 know, we just don't. 2.0 THE COURT: Very good. Have I allowed you to make 21 any argument you wanted to? Have I cut you off in any way? 22 MR. RHODES: No, I don't believe, your Honor. I 23 would simply add, it follows this, we-don't-know theme. we've spoken about Adrian, but there's also this other 2.4

aspect of Mr. Loyola where he appeared to be selling

firearms or transferring firearms over social media.

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And we have absolutely no information about who these individuals were that Mr. Loyola was engaging with or doing business with over Instagram. And so, to say that any of those firearms would also trigger this enhancement, I think would also be incorrect, and because there is no evidence that gets you to that preponderance standard as it pertains to any of those guns, because we don't know who he was dealing with. We don't know what he knew about who he was dealing with.

And we certainly have no idea what any of those individuals were planning to do with any of those guns. And so, to trigger (A)2(i), we can't, because we don't know what Mr. Loyola knew. And we certainly don't have any idea of who those people were.

So even if the machine gun counts as one under both prongs of 13(A), that's not enough. And I don't think any other gun at issue in this case, based on the evidence that we have, gets you to that enhancement.

I just don't think the evidence is there. And so, that's why we objected to the four-level increase under $2K2.1(b)\ (5)$.

THE COURT: Very good. Thank you.

MR. THOMAS: Your Honor, I want to start with the facts we know, and then talk about the law that we've gone

through and how it applies to 2K2.1, and then the guideline commentary.

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The facts are this is the story of someone who is trafficking firearms and ATF figured out about it and we stopped it.

The facts show, and if you look at the very beginning of paragraph 12, what starts this investigation is that he's posting online on Instagram pictures of multiple firearms, one of them being a Barrett .50 caliber rifle, another one appears to be a Mac-11 style pistol, we couldn't tell whether it was fully automatic, but it is of that style. It also appeared to have a silencer on it.

And so, that's what starts this investigation, because a .50 caliber rifle is one that is highly sought-after by the Mexican drug cartels. And so, when you have young men in the United States who are purchasing them, that is often the case as to where they're going.

And so, that was good detective work here. Oh, this looks fishy. Let's look into this. So as the account continued to be followed, the next thing we see is a request for, it's paragraph 13, "I need an M249, and I will cash you out 2k if you can point me in the right direction."

At that point what we are seeing is the defendant is posting, "I would like an M249," which is a machine gun, there's also a semiautomatic version, but it's still

following this pattern of somebody who's soliciting firearms
to go to Mexico, and he's going to give \$2,000 just for
someone to hook him up with someone who can get that gun.

So a \$2,000 referral fee, that's high.

What does that signify? Well, it's signifies that

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What does that signify? Well, it's signifies that it's what we expect. That it's somebody who's moving guns to Mexico. And so, we respond. He shows an interest. Yes, you know, his people would be interested in a machine gun. So the deal is set up.

The text messages back and forth with the undercover agent are that this \$20,000 deal that he's waiting on the money from his people in Mexico. So he's texting that they're sending it from Mexico, sending him the cash. "I got to pick up 10 today, and then it should be 10 tomorrow," that's paragraph 16, but it's on the way is what they say.

And so, in addition, I think at some point he indicated that, well, maybe can I buy half of it with the 10k, and then, you know, you will hold the rest of the gun?

And so, he offers to do 10k first and then another 10k, but ultimately, we make him wait. We set up the deal. He purchases the machine gun for \$20,000 in cash.

And then in the post-arrest interviews, what he explains to us is, and this is in paragraph 19, is that he's been purchasing -- that the individual this gun was supposed

to go to is an individual by the name of Adrian who he stated was involved in firearms and narcotics trafficking.

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He stated he began working and fixing guns for Adrian. His relationship drew closer when Adrian began asking for .50 caliber Barrett rifles. Again, consistent with trafficking to Mexico.

Loyola disclosed in 2022 he drove to Waco and purchased a Barrett .50 caliber for Adrian. He acknowledges this is one of the three firearms pictured in that original Instagram post. At the time those were in the possession of Adrian when he took that picture.

And he stated that he was aware that Adrian worked for a narcotics cartel. He stated he observed Adrian with 10 pounds of marijuana, and Adrian asked if he knew of anyone who would want to purchase the drugs.

And so, your Honor, I think that this is a classic firearms trafficking case. If this isn't firearms trafficking, what is? We have an individual who's purchasing guns on behalf of an individual who he knows works for a Mexican cartel.

And he's purchasing guns that are of the type that are desired by a drug cartel. And we step in when he's asking to purchase a machine gun. And at that point, we are able to shut him down.

And so, if we are talking about, you know, the

guidelines say that this enhancement applies if the individual engaged in firearms trafficking.

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The guidelines don't specifically define this is and this isn't firearms trafficking. They say that this enhancement does apply if this conduct is present, which is the conduct that was described, the two parts under Application Note 13. And the government's position is that Application Note 13 means what it says.

(A) (i) is that multiple firearms are involved, multiple firearms are transported, transferred, or otherwise disposed of, as is clearly the case here.

And then it has an additional requirement that, at least one of those, it doesn't say at least one, by having "a firearm," it's clear that it doesn't mean two or more. So the first paragraph says two or more; the second one says a. It's a clear distinction.

And so, it has this additional requirement. It's not enough that somebody is just moving a lot of guns. It has to be that at least one of them that they knew that it was going to either a prohibited person or that it was going to be disposed of unlawfully.

Which here "disposed of unlawfully" includes sending them south to Mexico to a prohibited person, includes a drug dealer, someone who is in the business of dealing drugs.

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And so, your Honor, I would agree that it is enough that he knew that at least one of them was going to someone who met that second prong. But I would say here the facts show that he knew that multiple guns were including the Barrett .50 caliber rifle.

He said he had been selling guns to Adrian for quite some time. And so, your Honor, I think sort of any way you look at it, it clearly meets the definition. If this doesn't, then what is firearms trafficking? So that's the government's position.

THE COURT: Yes, very good.

I'm going to overrule this objection. I think the facts and the inferences from the facts show that the defendant knew or reasonably should or had a reason to believe is the phrase.

I think that the evidence supports this, that he knew or had reason to believe, that Adrian -- that turning these guns over to Adrian, that Adrian was going to unlawfully dispose of the firearms by giving them to the Mexican drug cartel.

I think that the Application Note can fairly be read to apply to the single firearm, but I think the facts here support the multiple firearms as well as the inferences.

So that being the case, I determine that the total

offense level is 32; the Criminal History Category is III; 2 the imprisonment range is between 151 and 188 months; the 3 supervised release range is one to three years; and the fine range is between \$35,000 and \$250,000. 4 5 Does the government wish to be heard on 6 sentencing? 7 MR. THOMAS: Briefly, your Honor. The only thing I would add, kind of beyond the facts that we've talked 8 9 about, is that, at the time that the defendant committed 10 this offense, he was under indictment and on a deferred adjudication for the state offense of possession with intent 11 12 to distribute methamphetamine. 13 And so, I think it just shows the added 14 seriousness of this offense. While he was on deferred 15 adjudication for some other offense, he was continuing, not 16 just to possess firearms but engage in this criminal 17 conduct. And so, your Honor, the government would ask for 18 19 120 months, which is the quidelines here by way of the 20 statutory cap. 21 THE COURT: Very good. 22 Counsel, I have reviewed your sentencing 23 memorandum. You have also provided to me letters on behalf 2.4 of your client. With that said, the floor is now yours.

MR. RHODES: Thank you, your Honor.

As your Honor just stated, we did submit a 1 sentencing memorandum and character letters from 2 3 Mr. Loyola's mother and two of his sisters. His family is here in the courtroom today. I would ask them to stand and 4 have the Court recognize their presence. 5 THE COURT: Thank you all for being here today. 6 7 MR. RHODES: As you can see, he has significant family support. I don't want to belabor any of the points I 8 9 made in my memorandum. I know your Honor has had a chance 10 to read it and review it. I would just like to highlight a few things that I 11 12 think are worthy of noting that support a downward variance in this case. 13 14 Mr. Loyola has had an extremely difficult start to 15 his life. As I talk about, he was physically abused by his 16 father. His dad went to federal prison when he was 12. He 17 grew up in a terrible neighborhood surrounded by shootings, drugs. 18 19 He personally witnessed his mentor, 2.0 father-figure-like individual be shot, have a guy shoot him 21 right in front of his face and empty the clip of the qun 22 into the guy's back as he was standing right in front of 23 him. 2.4 His brother was recently murdered. Mr. Loyola has been through some adversity, there's no doubt. He's also 25

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struggled with alcohol. He was a heavy drinker prior to his arrest. I think that that can be attributed in large part to a lack of a real father figure growing up, and the struggles and the trauma that he has gone through.

He knows that that is a problem. He would ask the Court to recommend him for the RDAP program. So that when he's incarcerated, he can get a handle on that so that he can be able to not ever have any sort of issues with alcohol once he's released.

You know, despite all of these disadvantages and the struggles, Mr. Loyola has a plan for the future, and he's excited about it. He wants to get his GED. He was pulled out of school in the 8th grade, and he's basically worked odd jobs ever since to support himself and his family.

He wants to create a life that is more stable so that he can stop associating with people that have landed him in this situation.

And so, he wants to better himself and get his GED while he's incarcerated. He also wants to obtain a welding license so that he can make an honest living. He, like I said, he wants to better himself.

To the extent that he has been able to, while in the Johnson County jail awaiting sentencing in this case, he has actually taken the initiative and completed an anger

Case <u>4:22-cr-00356-O Document 48 Filed 06/01/23 Page 26 of 48 PageID 2</u>69 ²⁶ 1 management program and completed a program called Beyond 2 Prison, Probation and Parole, that's designed specifically 3 to help inmates plan for the future after they're released. So his eyes are set forward on his release and what he plans 4 5 to do once he's out. I think that, for all of the reasons mentioned in 6 7 my sentencing memorandum, a downward variance here is appropriate. 8 9 I think it's worth noting that his criminal 10 history is low compared to the average firearms offender. 11 For the year the data was most recently available, the 12 national average for firearms -- who trafficked or exported 13 firearms was 62 months, and that was in fiscal year 2021. 14 We would submit to the Court that something in 15 that range would be appropriate in this case given his 16 youth, given his traumatic upbringing and given his plans 17 for the future. Additionally, Judge, your Honor, I think it's also 18 19 worth noting that Mr. Loyola's guidelines here are 2.0 significantly elevated based in large part on what he told 21 law enforcement and based solely on that. 22 Law enforcement could have tried to investigate They could have followed up with the individual 23 2.4 that Mr. Loyola was, you know, transferring these firearms

to over social media. They didn't.

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And so, they used his word and solely his word to jack his guideline level up by arguably 15 levels. And so, we could be talking about a significantly different guideline range here today, your Honor, if Mr. Loyola had exercised his right to remain silent.

We're not suggesting that he's deserving of a 5K motion from the government or anything like that. I do think from a public policy perspective, it should not be the policy of punishment to be assessed against an individual when they're trying to do the right thing and own up to law enforcement about their involvement in a crime or in a criminal scheme.

Here Mr. Loyola was trying to do the right thing. He spoke with law enforcement. We're not here to submit that he was 100 percent honest or totally truthful or that he deserves a 5K, but he did try to do the right thing.

And he's being punished far, far more at this point based on where his guideline range is at solely because of what he told law enforcement.

And so, I think that that's worth noting here under the 3553(a) factors. And we would ask the Court for a downward variance to reflect what should amount to good public policy to encourage individuals to speak with law enforcement so that law enforcement can further their investigations and try to apprehend people who are more

dangerous than the person they are speaking with. That is the nature of the criminal investigations.

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I think Mr. Loyola should -- his statements to law enforcement should be viewed as mitigating, rather than aggravating, like they currently are under the guidelines.

I think here, for all of these reasons, a downward variance is appropriate. That's what we would ask for today.

Mr. Loyola is simply a young man who got involved with the wrong crowd. He has made some bad decisions in his life. He knows that. He recognizes that, but he is ready to turn over a new leaf.

And once he is released, he plans to make an honest living to support himself and his young son who he loves very much, and he is involved with on almost a daily basis. This is a story of a man that got involved with the wrong crowd and got wrapped up into something that is far bigger than himself.

He has his entire life ahead of him. He has a family. He has a very supportive family that is here today in court. He has no intention of going back to a criminal lifestyle.

So, your Honor, I think for all of these reasons, the reasons that I put in my sentencing memorandum, and any other reason the Court sees appropriate, I think a downward variance is called for in this case, and that's what we

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1 would ask for. 2 THE COURT: Thank you. 3 Sir, do you wish to speak on your behalf? THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. First and foremost, I 4 would like to acknowledge my appreciation to the Court for 5 giving me this opportunity to speak. Thank you. 6 7 Of course, I accept full responsibility, as well as my consequences of my actions. On October 26, 2022, not 8 9 only was I arrested, but I was saved from the life that I 10 was living. Throughout these five months of my incarceration, I started a little process, and I'm ready to 11 12 go mentally. 13 I do plan to take the rest of my time to educate 14 myself in every way possible so that on my release I can 15 become productive citizen. 16 I would like to apologize to my four-year-old son, 17 Leonel. At a very young age I too lost my father to the federal system and deportation, 10 long years without a 18 19 father being there. 2.0 I do not blame any of these things for my 21 mistakes. I only want to make it home to my son in time so 22 that I can be the father he deserves. 23 As far as my family circle, I really apologize to 2.4 my woman. I would like to apologize as well to my mother. 25 I would like to come back as soon as possible to be a

Case <u>4:22-cr-00356-O Document</u> 48 Filed 06/01/23 Page 30 of 48 PageID 273 ³⁰ 1 supportive son myself and a good brother to my sisters. 2 I extend my apologies to my community and to the 3 Court before which I stand today. Verbally, I say my mistakes will be fixed, and I will leave the negative 4 5 impacts in the past. I am a very young man, but I have no doubt in my 6 mind that this chapter in my life will give me the tools and 7 8 the resources to become a good person. 9 I look forward to a positive future and living an 10 honest life and also to raise back up and raise my family. God bless and thank you, your Honor. 11 12 THE COURT: Thank you. 13 I will now state the sentence determined pursuant 14 to Title 18, U.S.C. Section 3553. It is the judgment of the 15 Court that the defendant is committed to the Federal Bureau of Prisons for a period of 120 months. 16 17

I do not order a fine.

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I do order the mandatory special assessment of \$100.

I order that, upon your release, you be placed on supervised release for a term of three years. While on release, you shall comply with the terms of supervision set forth in Miscellaneous Order No. 64, and as outlined in Part G of the presentence report.

Is there any objection from the government to this

Thank you both for being here.

THE COURT: Then we are in recess on this case.

2.4

1			
2	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE		
3			
4	I, ZOIE WILLIAMS, RMR, RDR, FCRR, certify that		
5	the foregoing is a true and correct transcript from		
6	the record of proceedings in the foregoing entitled		
7	matter to the best of my ability to hear.		
8	Further, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some		
9	participants are wearing masks, and/or appeared via		
10	videoconferencing, so proceedings were transcribed to the		
11	best of my ability.		
12	I further certify that the transcript fees format		
13	comply with those prescribed by the Court and the Judicial		
14	Conference of the United States.		
15	Signed this 31st day of May, 2023.		
16			
17	/s/ Zoie Williams Zoie Williams, RMR, RDR, FCRR		
18	Official Court Reporter Northern District of Texas		
19	Fort Worth Division		
20	Business Address: 501 W. 10th Street, Room 532 Fort Worth, Texas 76102		
21	zwilliams.rmr@gmail.com 817.850.6630		
22	017.030.0030		
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